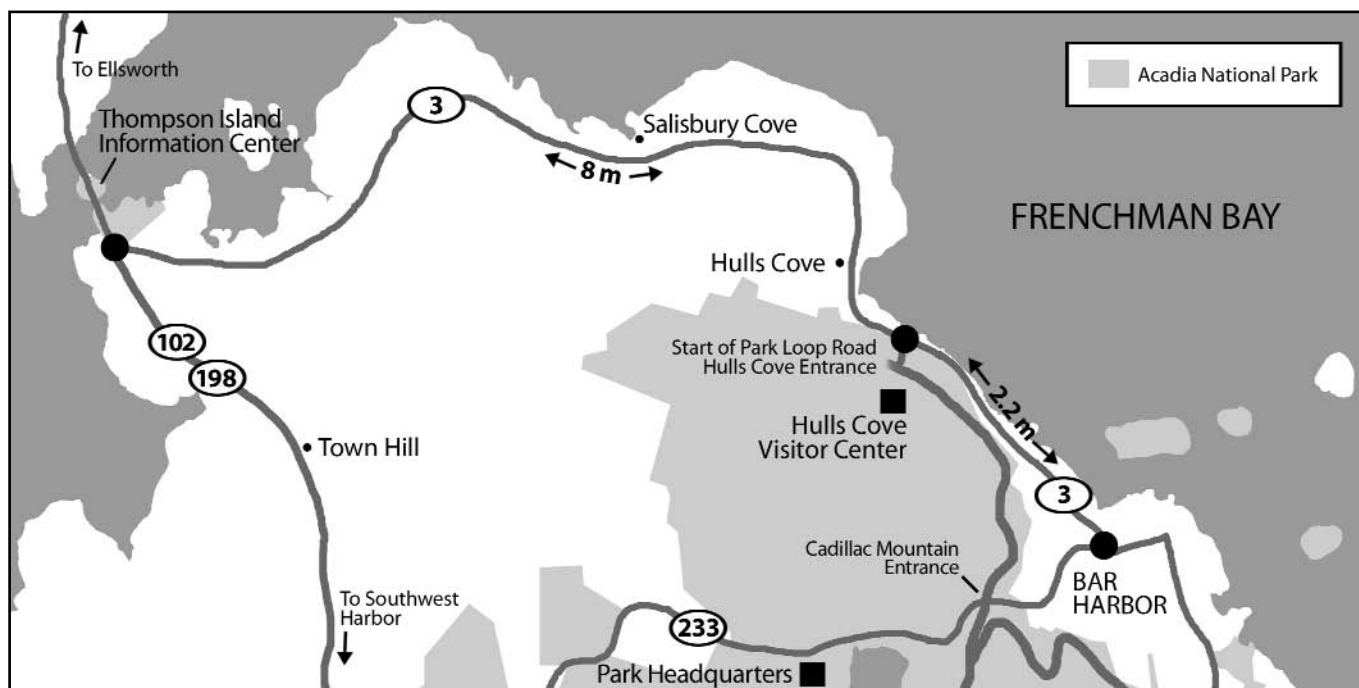


## SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

### Chapter Four – Visitor Center





## **Before You Go – Visitor Center Logistics**

### **LOCATION**

The visitor center is located off of State Route 3 in Hulls Cove, approximately eight miles from the Trenton Bridge (leading on to Mount Desert Island) and 2.2 miles northwest of Bar Harbor. The entrance to the visitor center parking lot and start of the Park Loop Road is clearly marked by a large Acadia National Park sign.

### **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Bookstore**

A large selection of books and other items are available for sale in the bookstore operated by Eastern National, a nonprofit cooperative partner of the National Park Service. A resource list of some titles is available in the appendix of this guide.

#### **Relief Map**

A large relief map at the visitor center showing Acadia National Park on Mount Desert Island helps orient park visitors. Park highlights and the surrounding communities are labeled. Use the relief map to familiarize your group with your planned route. Occasionally, map orientation talks are offered by park rangers.

#### **Video**

The 15-minute *Gift of Acadia* captures the essence of Acadia's significance and beauty. It is shown on the hour and half-hour throughout the day. The video is close-captioned for visitors with hearing difficulties. Translation tapes are available for French and German visitors, as well as a narration for the sight-impaired.

#### **Information**

Park staff assists both visitors in planning their park trip and tour guides in answering any last minute questions.

#### **Carriage Road Access**

At the north end of the main parking lot is a 1/2-mile long access trail to the Witch Hole Pond carriage road loop. It is a steep climb. Walkers and cyclists alike should watch for each other.

## TIME ALLOTMENT

Expect to spend one hour at the visitor center with your group.

- *Restroom Visits*: up to 30 minutes
- *Video Watching*: 15 minutes
- *Book Store Browsing*: 15 minutes

## PARKING

There are two parking areas for the visitor center. The main parking lot is large and provides approximately 200 spaces for cars and recreational vehicles. A second very small lot behind the visitor center provides accessible parking for tour buses and those who cannot climb the 52 steps to the visitor center.

- *Tour Buses*: From State Route 3 entrance, head straight at the four-way stop to drop off passengers behind the visitor center. From the Park Loop Road, turn left at the four-way stop. A short path leads to the lower level where steps and an elevator access the main visitor center.
- *Accessible Entrance*: Same as tour buses.
- *Vans and Automobiles*: From the State Route 3 entrance, turn right at the four-way stop for the main parking lot. From the Park Loop Road, head straight. The visitor center is at the top of 52 steps. If climbing these steps is difficult for any members of your group, consider using the accessible entrance.
- *Island Explorer Buses*: *Island Explorer* buses travel through the main parking lot and stop for passengers at the large kiosk at the base of the stairs.

## FACILITIES

Restrooms are available on both levels of the visitor center. Film, food, sunscreen, etc. is not sold at the visitor center. The closest location for these items as well as for gas is at the Hulls Cove General Store, located 1/3 mile north on State Route 3 in Hulls Cove.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The accessible entrance to the visitor center is on the lower level. (See parking information above). For the hearing impaired, the *Gift of Acadia* video is closed-captioned. If needed, arrangements can be made to provide a sign language interpreter on park programs. Reservations for an interpreter must be made well in advance for scheduling purposes. Call (207) 288-3338 (voice)/(207) 288-8800 TTY) for more information. Ask at the visitor center for a booklet describing accessible locations in the park. (Copy in appendix)

**SAFETY/REGULATIONS**

- Smoking, food, beverages, and pets are not allowed into the visitor center.
- Assistance dogs are always welcome. Please do not leave your pets in a vehicle unattended in July and August.
- Fifty-two steps lead to the visitor center. Please use caution.

**TRAILHEADS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS**

- *Witch Hole Pond Carriage Road Access Trail*



## **At a Glance – Visitor Center**

### **SIGNIFICANCE**

The visitor center is an important beginning point for any visit to Acadia National Park staffed by knowledgeable park staff. General information on restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts, etc. is not available here. Contact area Chambers of Commerce in advance. Phone numbers are listed on page 1-30.

### **FAST FACTS**

- The visitor center is open from mid-April through October. Hours are 8am–6pm during July and August; 8am–4:30pm or 8am–5pm other months.
- In July and August, lines at information desks are long between the hours of 10am and 2pm. To reduce congestion at the information desks, it is recommended that tour operators ask necessary questions for their group rather than have individual group members ask.
- Maps of Acadia National Park or other informational handouts are not available in quantity. If needed, contact park headquarters in advance at (207)288-3338 to ask about bulk cost.
- The park newspaper, the *Beaver Log*, provides general park information and a listing of ranger-led programs. These park programs are designed to illuminate the various aspects of Acadia National Park for visitors.
- Park passes (see info on page 1-36) for individual vehicles are available here. Tour bus operators should check page 1-37 of this guide then contact the park fee coordinator in advance of their trip for up to date information. The number is (207) 288-8786.

### **PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP**

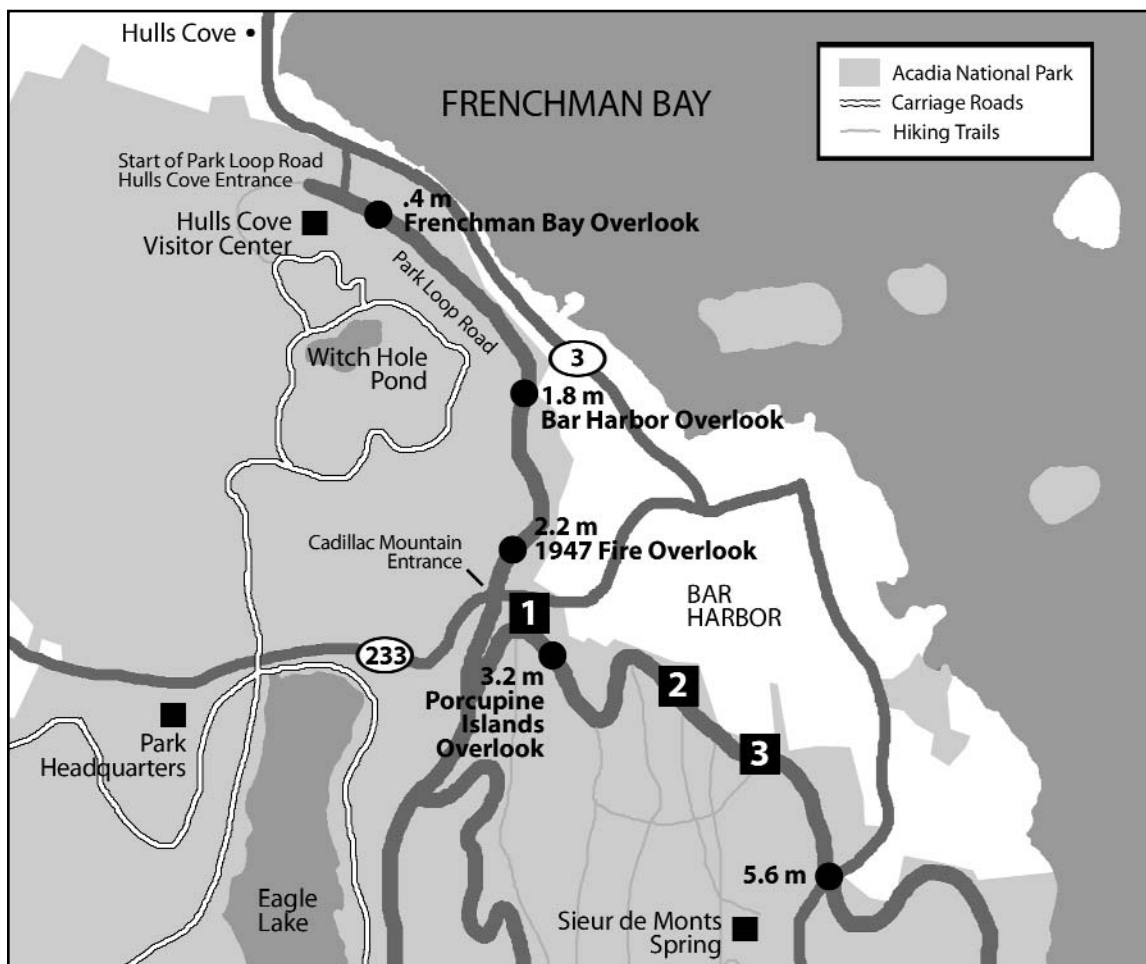
- The visitor center will have any of the latest information on resource protection or areas of concern in protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park.
- Health alerts such as poor air quality will be posted at the visitor center.

### **HELPFUL FACT SHEETS**

Review *Section One – Beginning Your Visit*.

## SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

### Chapter Five – Park Loop Road Visitor Center to Sieur de Monts Spring



- 1** North Ridge of Cadillac Trail
- 2** Gorge, Kebo and Dorr North Ridge Trails
- 3** Strath-Eden and Jesup Trails



## **Before You Go – What to Know**

### **Park Loop Road**

### **Visitor Center to Sieur de Monts Spring Logistics**

#### **LOCATION**

The Park Loop Road travels through most of the eastern section of Acadia National Park. This portion of the guide covers the Park Loop Road from its starting point at the visitor center to Sieur de Monts Spring.

NOTE: The Park Loop Road is covered in three sections in this guide: 1) visitor center to Sieur de Monts Spring, 2) Sieur de Monts Spring to Jordan Pond, and 3) Jordan Pond to Cadillac Mountain Road. The Park Loop Road maps on pages 1-14 and 1-15 show the road's highlights, mileages, and the informal names of road sections.

#### **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **Visitor Center**

Information on page 2-1.

##### **Four Overlooks**

Pull-offs to views of Frenchman Bay, Bar Harbor, 1947 Fire Overlook (views to Cadillac and Champlain Mountains), and the Porcupine Islands.

##### **Sieur de Monts Spring**

Information on page 2-19.

#### **TIME ALLOTMENT**

Plan to spend 15 minutes just driving between the visitor center and Sieur de Monts Spring. Plan for 25 minutes with two overlook stops.

- *Frenchman Bay Overlook*: 5 minutes
- *1947 Fire Overlook*: 5 minutes

#### **PARKING**

The Park Loop Road becomes one-way after making the left hairpin turn at the intersection of the three mile Paradise Hill spur road with the actual loop. Vehicles may park in the right hand lane of the road. Individual parking areas are noted in the background information/narrative section.

#### **FACILITIES**

Restrooms are available at the visitor center and at Sieur de Monts Spring.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

See specific sections on visitor center and Sieur de Monts Spring.

## **SAFETY**

- Speed limit for the majority of the Park Loop Road is 35 mph, with some areas posted at slower speeds. Maine state law requires seat belts to be worn.
- The three mile road from the visitor center has a two-way traffic pattern. After the intersection with the Park Loop Road, it becomes one-way toward Sand Beach and remains two-way toward Cadillac Mountain and Jordan Pond. Please be alert for cyclists and vehicles parked in the right hand lane on the one-way section of the road.
- In July and August, the road is crowded between the hours of 10am and 3pm.

## **TRAILHEADS AND TRAIL CONNECTIONS**

For descriptions and distances of trails, see the Recreation section of this guide.

Carriage road access at visitor center. Trail access to:

- *North Ridge of Cadillac*
- *The Gorge*
- *Kebo Mountain*
- *Strath-Eden Path*
- *Dorr North Ridge*
- *Jesup Path*

Sieur de Monts trails are covered on page 2-23.





## **At A Glance**

### **Park Loop Road (Visitor Center to Sieur de Monts Spring)**

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

The 27-mile Park Loop Road winds past mountains, ocean views, and lakes. It culminates in a drive up Cadillac Mountain for spectacular panoramic views. The entire 21-mile loop and spur to Cadillac Mountain summit offers visitors the essence of Acadia. The road evolved through the development and rehabilitation of twelve separate road sections between 1921 and 1958 resulting in one of the most scenic roads in the country. Almost anyone who travels it associates the views from this road with their Acadian memories. The 5.6-mile section between the visitor center and Sieur de Monts Spring includes Frenchman Bay views and quiet deciduous forests and meadows.

#### **FAST FACTS**

- Mount Desert Island, where Acadia National Park is located, is pronounced *dessert*. The island's name, coined by navigator Samuel Champlain refers to "deserted mountain tops."
- The name Acadia most likely comes from the French who called this area L'Acadie. This was a French version of the name Arcadia, given to the region of North America between the 40th-46th parallel.
- Frenchman Bay's name recognizes the French warships that lay in wait in the 18th century for unsuspecting English ships.
- Beginning in the mid-1800s Mount Desert Island and Bar Harbor became a vacation destination for many city-dwellers.
- A fire in 1947 burned 17,000 acres on Mount Desert Island.

#### **PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Remember to follow *Leave No Trace* principles. In particular:

- Please follow posted speed limits. They are for your protection as well as for the protection of park wildlife.
- Please turn off buses when parking at overlooks or in parking lots. The noise and smell detracts from the experience of park visitors.

## **HELPFUL INFORMATION**

### **PARK LOOP ROAD (VISITOR CENTER TO SIEUR DE MONTS SPRING)**

#### **Fact Sheets:**

Bald Eagles 3-24

Acadia's Common Plants 3-50

Fire Management 3-91

Lands 3-94

Acadia's Outer Islands 3-96

Park History 3-105

Acadia's Historic Trails 3-111

Fire of 1947 3-113

#### **Appendix:**

Birding on Mount Desert Island (B)

Who's Who in Acadia's History (E)

Quotes (E)

#### **Also:**

Acadia National Park - A Park Like No Other 1-3

*Leave No Trace* Principles 1-21



## **Background Information/Narrative**

### **The Park Loop Road**

### **(Visitor Center to Sieur de Monts Spring)**

Distances are measured from the visitor center.

#### **(LG) FRENCHMAN BAY OVERLOOK**

*Appropriate for tour bus groups to get off the bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile .4* The bay stretches seven miles north from its Gulf of Maine headlands, bordered to the west by Mount Desert Island and to the east by Schoodic Peninsula. One of the interpretive signs at the overlook labels the view of islands and mountains.

#### **Parking**

The overlook provides 15 diagonal parking spaces. There is adequate space for buses.

Frenchman Bay's name reflects the area's historic French influence. L'Acadie, the French title for this region, most likely originated from the name Arcadia. That title was bestowed in 1524 by Giovanni de Verrazano, the Italian navigator sailing for France, to describe present-day Chesapeake Bay and the Outer Banks of North Carolina shore scenery. It was a cartographer's mistake that placed Arcadia well north of the coastline that had reminded Verrazano of ancient Greek landscapes with beautiful green forests.

The visit of the French nobleman, Pierre Dugua, the Sieur de Mons, and his navigator Samuel Champlain in 1604 marked one of the first European records of this region. King Henry IV gave Dugua authority over the 40th-46th parallel of North America. Imagine receiving a land grant, sight unseen, encompassing present-day Montreal to Philadelphia!

While Dugua and his crew established a settlement on Saint Croix Island along the present-day Maine/New Brunswick border, his navigator, Samuel Champlain set sail down the coast with a handful of men and natives. Although the Saint Croix settlement failed, the name bestowed by Champlain upon this island, the "Isle de Monts Deserts" has endured.

In 1613, a French Jesuit settlement believed to have been established at the mouth of Somes Sound was also ill-fated. Instead of the harsh weather elements that the

Saint Croix settlement succumbed to, the Jesuit colony was attacked by the British. This event, coupled with other skirmishes in the region, marked the beginning of a 150 year French and English struggle for the North American continent. The French took advantage of Frenchman Bay's islands and crooked coastline for hiding tall frigates that would surprise and attack British ships.

By 1759, with the conflict resolved in favor of the English, European settlement began and coastal colonists utilized the land's bounty to supply the needs of a growing nation. Barrel staves shaped from island lumber, ice cut from frozen coves and nearby lakes, cobbles collected from beaches for roads, granite quarried for buildings, and fish harvested from the bays were transported by the trucks of the day, sailing ships, to Portland, Boston, and New York. In 1837, six hundred sets of sails were counted dotting Frenchman Bay.

Shipbuilding was a common sight in many of the harbors and coves. Towering white pine trees were perfect for masts. Schooners, a ship with at least two main masts, were born of a need for fast-moving vessels, able to race back from fishing excursions at the Grand Banks to get top dollar for their catch. Schooners also served well in smuggling illicit goods!

Eventually schooners were replaced by steamships, and today the bay sees mostly pleasure craft, whether private boat, large passenger cruise lines, or the Cat, a car and passenger ferry that makes the trip to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 2-1/2 hours. Schooners still appear though, allowing a glimpse into days gone by.

*At mile 1.7 is a turn-off to the left that leads to Bar Harbor.*

## **BAR HARBOR OVERLOOK**

*Passengers remain on bus.*

### **Location**

*Mile 1.8* This unmarked pull-off offers a view of Bar Harbor. You may prefer to use the following information while driving rather than stopping at this overlook.

### **Parking**

No specific spaces; parallel parking.

Beginning in the mid-1800s, Mount Desert Island was transformed into a well-known vacation spot with Bar Harbor eventually serving as its hub. Those with time to enjoy adventure and relaxation, such as clergy and professors, journeyed here.

Artists, like Frederick Church and Thomas Cole of the Hudson River School, painted mountain scenery and crashing surf. Writers poetically expressed the island's charms. These expressions of the island's beauty lured more people to its shores. Hotels sprang up, including one of the largest in Bar Harbor, The Rodick House, with 600 rooms.

Those who could afford to built cottages—multi-room mansions that gave Bar Harbor's shoreline the nickname "Millionaire's Row." From 1890-1915, Bar Harbor replaced fashionable Newport, Rhode Island as *the* summer resort. This opulent era slowly closed as the effect of income taxes, the Depression, and two world wars took their toll on the financial wealth of many of the summer residents. Cottage upkeep and taxes became cost prohibitive and by the early 1940s, many were torn down or sold at a fraction of their worth. A massive fire in 1947 razed 67 mansions, perhaps to the relief of some of their owners.

### **1947 FIRE OVERLOOK**

*Passengers can remain on bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 2.2* To the far left is Frenchman Bay and to the far right is Sargent Mountain. The view straight ahead includes: in the foreground, the summits of Cadillac and Dorr Mountains, and in the background, Champlain Mountain.

#### **Parking**

Small pull-off without true parking spaces; parallel parking. *Note: interpretive sign.*

In October of 1947, 17,000 acres burned on the eastern side of Mount Desert Island. Ten thousand acres were park land. An exceptionally dry summer led to tinderbox conditions, and a dump fire once thought extinguished revived. On the third day, gale force winds spread the fire rapidly. In three hours, the fire traveled six miles turning numerous cottages, homes, and hotels into rubble. Some Bar Harbor residents fled by boat, while others escaped by car on State Route 3 after bull dozers cleared the way. By the time the inferno ended, it had burned from Hulls Cove to the western shores of Eagle Lake, Great Head by Sand Beach, and near Otter Point.

There is no question that from a human point of view the fire was tragic. But to the forest ecosystem, primarily dominated by red spruce and balsam fir, the flames brought important change. Through the scars of a blackened spruce forest came the birth of a diverse landscape. The wind-blown seeds from the catkins (dangling flower clusters) of white birch, gray birch, quaking aspen, and big-tooth aspen easily germinated in the full sun of the now exposed ground. This new habitat supported a variety of wildlife, from songbirds to deer to beaver.

As you gaze toward the mountains, look closely at the variation in the vegetation on the hillsides. The conifers' dark green hue contrasts against the hardwoods' bright green leaves, autumn colors, or bare branches. Can you detect what portion burned in 1947? As you travel the Park Loop Road, watch for changes in forest cover from deciduous woods to red spruce.

At mile 2.4, just after the overlook, is a turn-off to the left for State Route 233. Take a right on State Route 233 to access Northeast Harbor or the west side of the island; left turn leads to Bar Harbor. At mile 2.9 is the junction with the loop road. To the left is the one-way section of the loop heading toward Sieur de Monts Spring and Sand Beach; straight ahead is access to Cadillac Mountain Road and Jordan Pond.

### **PORCUPINE ISLANDS OVERLOOK**

*Passengers remain on bus.*

#### **Location**

*Mile 3.2* This overlook of Bar Harbor and Frenchman Bay provides a good view of the Porcupine Islands. Bald Porcupine is the island to the right with a steep south-facing cliff. To the left of Bald Porcupine are, from west to east, Bar Island, Sheep Porcupine, Burnt Porcupine, and Long Porcupine.

#### **Parking**

There are no designated bus parking spaces in the parallel pull-off. Because this is also the parking area for the North Ridge Trail of Cadillac, it is often full. It is best to slow down in the right hand lane and pause to enjoy the view.

Acadia is a national park composed primarily of islands. Schoodic Peninsula is the only mainland portion. The most obvious islands are Mount Desert and Isle au Haut, but numerous small islands, such as Bar Island, Bald Porcupine, and Sheep Porcupine are also part of the park. These islands provide important bald eagle nesting sites and perches. Bald Porcupine (whose name reflects a time when the island was cleared for livestock grazing) also hosts an important nesting site along its cliffs for black guillemots, a small black and white seabird related to puffins.

The lack of predators on many of the off-shore islands make them ideal for nesting seabirds and other wildlife. Harbor seals sun themselves and nurse their young along the island ledges. Porpoises and an occasional minke whale can be spotted among the island waters (best seen from boats). Many islands harbor rare and endangered plant species. Protection is vital to keep these fragile island habitats intact and undeveloped. In addition to agencies like the National Park Service, the Nature

Conservancy, Maine Audubon, and the Maine Heritage Trust, another road to preservation is one taken by private land owners—conservation easements.

These legal agreements are between a property owner and a conservation-oriented group like the ones mentioned above. The property owner relinquishes certain land rights to protect the land in perpetuity. Each easement is different, with guidelines established between the owner and the holding agency. An easement does not necessarily indicate access to visitors unless the owners consent. Acadia National Park is partnered with many private landowners to hold easements, several of which are Frenchman Bay islands. Easements are just one example of the park's legacy of land donation for the purpose of preservation.

### **PORCUPINE ISLANDS OVERLOOK TO GREAT MEADOW**

*No planned stops.*

As you travel through this area that burned in 1947, you may wonder why a red spruce forest did not grow again. The forest today is primarily a birch and aspen forest with pockets of other hardwoods like red oak, sugar maple, and beech. Birch and aspen are able to populate areas after fire because: 1) seeds from the dangly catkins travel easily on the wind, 2) their seeds germinate quickly in full sun, and 3) they are fast growers. Will this forest remain primarily birch and aspen? As a general rule—probably not. Birch and aspen are short-lived trees, and the shade of this forest will limit their seed germination and sapling growth. Red spruce prefers shade for seed cones to germinate, and once having sprouted, the saplings are shade tolerant. This partially explains why red spruce didn't readily grow after the fire, even though seeds were present. Today, red spruce is scattered beneath the deciduous canopy, perhaps waiting its turn to dominate once again.

The forest opens up to the marshy Great Meadow, bordered by birch and aspen but filled with sedges, cattails, rhodora, alders, and winterberry. Diversity reigns in Acadia's fresh and salt water wetlands where a wide range of wildlife is supported and half of Maine's state-listed rare plants are found. Many wetlands help to purge water of pollutants and to recharge groundwater sources and reduce flooding by releasing water slowly.

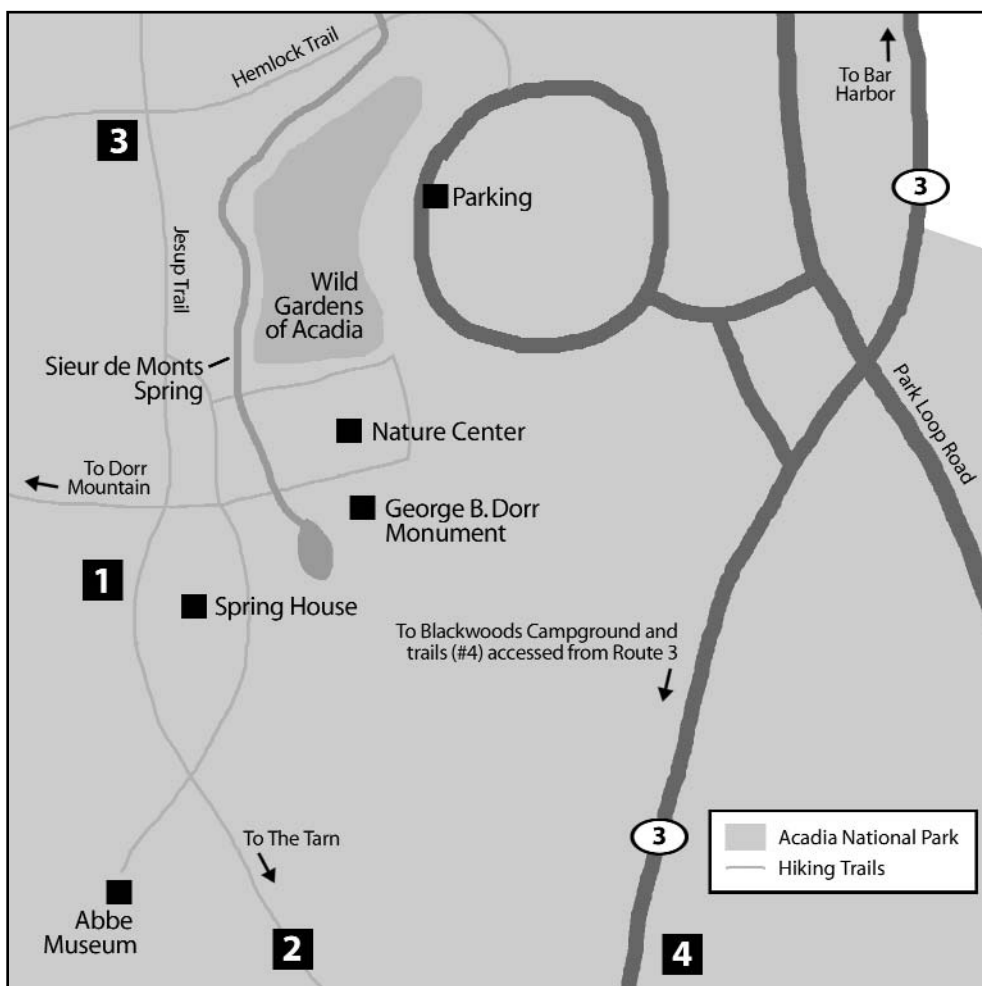
Great Meadow is an exceptionally scenic location, flanked by two sets of mountains. Cadillac and Dorr Mountains rise to the right of the meadow. Huguenot Head and Champlain Mountain are to the left. Each of these mountain pairs are connected together by a notch formed during the last glacial retreat. As the ice sheet receded, a meltwater channel of raging water formed inside the ice, etching a deep notch in the granite ridges defining two individual mountain summits.

At mile 4.7 and mile 5.0 are turn-offs to the left which lead to Bar Harbor. Sieur de Monts Spring is reached at mile 5.6. Turn right, and then turn right again into the parking area for Sieur de Monts Spring area. If interested in accessing State Route 3 to Bar Harbor or Blackwoods Campground, do not turn into the parking area, but head straight instead. Turn right on State Route 3 for Blackwoods Campground; turn left for Bar Harbor.



## SECTION TWO – PARK SITES

### Chapter Six – Sieur de Monts Spring



#### **1 Dorr Mountain East Face Trails**

#### **2 Tarn Trail (from Jesup Trail)**

*With connections to Ladder Trail,  
Kurt Diederich's Trail, Beachcroft Trail*

#### **3 Hemlock Trail**

*With connections to Strath-Eden Path,  
Dorr Mountain North Ridge Trail, Gorge Path*

#### **4 Dorr Mountain South Slope Trails**

*Canon Brook Trail, A. Murray Young Trail,  
Dorr South Ridge Trail*



## **Before You Go – What to Know Sieur de Monts Spring Logistics**

### **LOCATION**

Sieur de Monts Spring is located off the Park Loop Road, 5.6 miles from the visitor center. It is also accessed 3 miles outside of Bar Harbor, from State Route 3.

### **AREA HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **(LG/K) The Abbe Museum**

A contemporary of George B. Dorr, the park's first superintendent, Dr. Robert Abbe, a surgeon from New York was fascinated by the history of the area's native people and their prehistoric ancestors. With the purchase of a collection of ancient stone tools, Abbe's amateur archeology hobby was sparked. His determination to collect the objects and stories of Maine's prehistoric and American Indians resulted in the building of the octagonal museum that today houses one of Maine's best archeological collections.

The museum is open mid-May to mid-October. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and .50 for children under 12. The Abbe Museum also operates a second museum in Bar Harbor that focuses on the Wabanaki people and their four tribes—the Penobscot, the Passamaquoddy, the Micmac, and the Maliseet. For information call (207) 288-3519.

#### **(LG) The Wild Gardens of Acadia**

A variety of park habitats from mountain summits to fresh meadows and shoreline to bogs are re-created here with the native plants of Acadia. A living field guide, the plants are labeled and serve as an outstanding educational resource to familiarize one with the native vegetation. The garden is operated by the Bar Harbor Garden Club in conjunction with Acadia National Park. Free. Open dawn-dusk.

#### **(LG/K) Acadia National Park Nature Center**

The Nature Center offers exhibits on the “science behind the scenery” of the park. Learn more about the important work of park biologists and researchers as they, armed with valuable information, protect park resources. In addition, the Nature Center offers an animal track matching game and taped frog calls (fun to listen to). The lawn outside the Nature Center is a good location to let children run. A small bookstore is available. Free. Open from mid-May to mid-September.

**Ranger-led Programs**

Several programs are offered at this location. Check the park newspaper, the *Beaver Log*, for information.

**(K) Walks**

For a pleasant walk in the area, the Jesup Path and Hemlock Trail (wide road section) combine to make an easy one mile roundtrip. Through birch forest to meadow to towering hemlocks, three different Acadia habitats can be enjoyed.

**(LG) Sieur de Monts Spring Trail Guide**

This guide explains the significance of sites at Sieur de Monts Spring. Guides are sold at the Nature Center. *1/4 mile/20 minutes. A copy of the text is in the appendix.*

**Bird Watching**

Deciduous woods, open meadows, coniferous forests, pond, and cliff-side habitats converge in the Sieur de Monts area, creating an ideal location for birding enthusiasts. Check the wildlife watchers notebook in the Nature Center to see what's been spotted or add your own observations. For more information on bird-watching, see the appendix.

**TIME ALLOTMENT**

If visiting all sites, expect to spend one hour.

- *Restrooms*: 10 minutes
- *Wild Gardens of Acadia*: 15 minutes
- *Nature Center*: 10 minutes
- *The Abbe Museum*: 20 minutes

**PARKING**

The Sieur de Mont Springs parking lot has approximately 80 diagonal spaces. It fills to capacity during the summer between the hours of 10am and 3pm. There is no parking on the side of the road leading into and exiting from the area.

**FACILITIES**

Restrooms are available off the parking lot.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

- Nature Center
- The Abbe Museum. You must drive to the accessible entrance at the back of the museum. The paved path from the Nature Center to the museum is fairly steep and not easy for wheelchairs.
- Most portions of the Wild Gardens, although some paths are narrow.
- The beginning of the Hemlock Trail is a primarily flat gravel road with a very slight rise and is suitable for wheelchairs.
- Restrooms

## **SAFETY**

- The parking lot is extremely busy especially on July and August afternoons. *Please watch for vehicles.*
- People are sometimes confused when leaving the parking area as to which direction to head. Please be alert for drivers who change their mind quickly.

## **TRAILHEADS AND TRAILHEAD CONNECTIONS**

NOTE: Not all of these listed trailheads are located right at Sieur de Monts Spring. However, many trails in the Dorr Mountain area connect with trails that do begin at Sieur de Monts Spring. Please check the hiking fact sheet in the Recreation section for descriptions and distances.

### **Dorr Mountain East Face Trails-**

#### **Trailheads behind Spring House from Jesup Trail**

- *Dorr Mountain East Face Trail*
- *Kurt Diederich's Trail*
- *Tarn Trail*
- *Ladder Trail*

### **From Behind Nature Center**

- *Jesup Path*

### **Dorr Mountain North Slope Trails-**

#### **Trailheads from the Hemlock Trail (Behind Wild Gardens)**

- *Hemlock Trail*
- *Strath-Eden Path*
- *Dorr Mountain North Ridge Trail*
- *Gorge Path*

**Dorr Mountain South Slope Trails-Trailheads and connections off Tarn Trail or off of State Route 3, .5 miles past the Tarn parking area (small pull-off on right hand side of road)**

- *Canon Brook Trail*
- *A. Murray Young Trail*
- *Dorr South Ridge Trail*

**Huguenot Head -Trailhead from Tarn Parking area on State Route 3**

- *Beachcroft Trail*



## **At a Glance**

### **Sieur de Monts Spring**

#### **SIGNIFICANCE**

George Dorr, one of the founders of the park and its first superintendent, loved the tranquility of this spot. A small spring used historically by both American Indians and early settlers captivated Dorr here. He made a small depression in the ground for the spring waters to fill and then built the octagonal shelter over it. His landscaping efforts reflect a different view of nature at the time. Dorr's interest in the French history of this area inspired him to name the spring after the French explorer and nobleman, Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons.

#### **FAST FACTS**

- The name Sieur de Monts (a nobleman's title), is the correct French spelling. However, Pierre Dugua spelled his title "Sieur de Mons." Park historians prefer this spelling.
- Sieur de Monts National Monument, the original designation of the park in 1916, became Lafayette National Park in 1919 through an act of Congress. The park name was changed to Acadia in 1929.
- Over 70 bird species can be found in the Sieur de Monts area.

#### **PROTECT YOUR PARK – HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- When parking in the lot, please turn buses off so as not to distract other visitors.
- Please park in designated areas only. There is no parking allowed on the sides of the exiting road.
- Follow *Leave No Trace* principles.

#### **HELPFUL INFORMATION – SIEUR DE MONTS SPRING**

##### **Fact Sheets:**

Wildlife 3-3

Wildlife Research 3-8

Beaver 3-11

Peregrine Falcons 3-25

Amphibians 3-34

Plant Groups of Acadia National Park 3-43

Caring for Acadia's Native Plants 3-47

Plant Communities 3-50

Protecting Park Resources 3-83

Downeast and Downwind – Air Quality 3-85

Water Quality 3-88

Park History 3-105

Acadia's Historic Trails 3-111

**Appendix:**

Birding on Mount Desert Island (B)

Common Plant Checklist for Acadia National Park (C)

Acadia National Park Timeline (E)

Who's Who at Acadia (E)

Sieur de Monts Trail Guide (H)



## **Background Information/Narrative Sieur de Monts Spring**

### **BIRTH OF A PARK**

#### **GEORGE DORR AND THE FORMATION OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK**

George Dorr was a member of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, an early 1900s organization of summer residents alarmed at the rate of development on Mount Desert Island. In response to their concern, through donation and the use of their own private funds, almost 6000 acres were in the trustee's possession by 1912. The eventual possibility of loss of their tax-exempt status coupled with the understanding of the intrinsic value of their land holdings, spurred Dorr to petition political players in Washington D.C. in 1913 to accept the lands as a national monument. Why a national monument and not a national park? An act of Congress is needed to make a national park while a national monument only needs the signature of the president. The latter choice offered a better probability of success and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson created Sieur de Monts National Monument.

The original charter creating the park stated that the acquisition of lands would only occur through donation and not with federal funds. Two outcomes have since resulted. One, private landowners have demonstrated their love of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park through generous gifts of land. The approximately 48,000 acres that comprise Acadia are almost all from land donation. Second, land donations have given a jigsaw puzzle shape to the park boundary. In 1986 a permanent boundary was established for Acadia. Land parcels of significant importance to preserve were purchased with federal funds or traded for with park-owned land of lesser ecological value.

Dorr's work at Sieur de Monts Spring symbolizes the enthusiasm and the spirit of many early twentieth century summer residents who worked to preserve and protect the natural and historic values of Mount Desert Island. Today, Sieur de Monts Spring serves as a memorial to George Dorr for his work toward the creation of this national park and his direction of it from 1916-1944 as its first superintendent.